

## Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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### Message 11-14-09 Chayei Sarah-Life of Sarah Genesis 23:1-25:18 1 Kings 1:1-31 1 John 3:13-16

#### Introduction

Don't let the title of this portion fool you: the *chayei* suggests a focus on the "life of" Sarah, however we are exposed more to her demise; a Judaic teaching that awareness of death gives meaning to life.<sup>1</sup>

#### Genesis 23:1-2, 25:7-8

**1** Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. **2** And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. **7** These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years. **8** Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

We begin this week's portion with the death of Sarah and we end it with the death of Abraham. The mother and father of Israel are Biblical figures we need to remember and honor. Abraham is also the father of all Believers who ever lived. He is your father in the faith as well as mine. He placed his faith in the Holy One and listened to His voice. His encounters with the Holy One should make us envious of him and should cause us to desire the same kind of relationship Abraham had with his Creator.

I have tried to walk the walk that our forefathers did and I can tell you it is not an easy road they took. In our society, as it is, we have made our own gods and we follow them rather than the one true God. In Hebrew the word Elohim is usually translated as God or gods. It is used to denote the one true God, big G, and pagan gods, (small g). Rightfully it should be translated as Gods when used to signify the one true God. In this form we could then see the picture of the Godhead.

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<sup>1</sup> From *Torah with a Twist of Humor*

**Romans 1:20** For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

**Colossians 2:9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

**Colossians 2:9** For in Him the whole fullness of Deity dwells bodily.

In these three passages of Scripture we see a reference to the Godhead though in Colossians 2:9, in one translation, we see the translation as Godhead and in another translation we see it rendered as deity, implying the same thing as Godhead. It is the same Greek word used in both places but the translators made different choices as to meaning.

**2320 θεότης** theotes {theh-ot'-ace}

**Meaning:** deity, the state of being God, Godhead

**Origin:** from 2316; TDNT - 3:119,322; n f

**Usage:** AV - Godhead 1; 1

In Romans 1:20 this translation includes the term Godhead while in some other translations the term is left out altogether. This could be due to the Greek manuscript used. In the KJV and NKJV Godhead is used while in the ESV, NASB, etc. it is not used. This can change our perception of the passage's in question but it all boils down to faith. We have no idea how many times the Holy One spoke to Abraham during his lifetime but several of those instances are recorded in the word.

**Romans 4:3** For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." Genesis 15:6

**Romans 4:16** For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Torah, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, **17** (as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, *even* God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. Genesis 17:5, Isaiah 48:13, 51:2

From Seth to Enoch to Noah and to Abraham these were all man of the Almighty who walked in His ways but something causes Abraham's faith to stand out above others in the roll-call of the Righteous. All of these men lived in a pagan society when they took on the belief in one God. When the Holy One created man He revealed Himself to man and placed His Spirit in man through the breath of life that brought man to life. So, each one of us is imprinted with the mark of the Holy One of Israel. We are seen by the Father through our faith in His Son. If we lack the faith in His Son the Father can reject us. The same is true of those who reject Torah but think it is ok to do this because we are not saved by faith in the Torah but by our faith in Messiah Yeshua.

It is through Him our sins are forgiven and covered over by the blood of His sacrifice, not ours nor the blood of animals. The sacrifice of animals was meant to be temporary and to point the way to Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel. The sacrificial system should point to Messiah and what He did for us. The Torah cannot save but can point us to Messiah who can save us. Even with

Messiah the Torah is not made invalid. In fact it becomes conditional for all Believers in Messiah to live a Torah based lifestyle – Messiah requires this if we truly love Him.

**John 14:15** "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

My entire ministry has focused on the Torah as the source material for our walk in Messiah. I love the Torah and the teachings it gives us. Others do not see what I see in the Torah. The Church, for the most part, has turned away from the Torah and the leadership of Judah. Judah was to lead the way because they were blessed with the staff of leadership, the blessing to have Messiah come through their line and to carry the Torah to the nations. It is not an issue of the two houses but one house – a house based on Messiah and Torah. We are not a lawless people but part of the people of the Book.

The Jewish people are called the people of the Book and those of us who enter into Israel are joined with them as one nation – the nation of Israel. Even though the Jewish people, through the line of Judah, received these blessings from Jacob blindness came upon them and most of Judah does not see the Messiah Yeshua while others do see Him but are blinded to Torah.

The blindness is being lifted little by little and many Christians are discovering their Hebrew Roots or their link to the Jewish Heritage that belongs to all of us. To ignore the Jewish ways is to turn away from Yeshua and follow a false Messiah.

**2 Corinthians 11:4** For if someone comes and proclaims another Yeshua than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

The Shaliach Shaul was encountering other Shalichim who were leading the people away from the truth. We have the same thing today and we have many teachers who are not teaching the truth. They are too worried about end times scenarios when all of that means nothing if you do not know Messiah, His saving grace, and His Torah. If you hold fast to your faith the rest of this stuff is meaningless because what is most important is what you have – Yeshua and forgiveness for your sins.

Abraham walked with the Holy One after he came to faith in Him. He lived to be 175 years. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, were among the last of the ancients who lived long lives. In our day the life spans of mankind are beginning to increase once again but I do not believe we will achieve the length of days of our forefathers before the return of Yeshua. While we live we need to be like Abraham, lights in the darkness to bring mankind to Messiah. Become a lamp and light the way.

**1 Kings 1:5-6, 10**

**5** Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. **6** His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom. **10** but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the mighty men or Solomon his brother.

Adonijah knew that his brother Solomon had been chosen as the one to succeed their father David as King of Israel but he did not accept it and tried to usurp his brother by declaring he

would be king over Israel instead of Solomon. The Almighty chose Solomon and not Adonijah. Adonijah had been spoiled by his father he felt that as the eldest son because of the death of Absalom he should be king after his father David died. This brings to mind a situation I have seen happening in the Messianic Movement for a while now.

Judah was entrusted with the leadership, Torah and Messiah. Ephraim was to stand in the stead of Joseph and had received the double portion in the blessing of Jacob. The problem is with those who embrace themselves as being Ephraim standing up and telling Judah get out of the way we are back and we are taking the mantle of leadership back. It is not theirs to take. What they are doing is what the Church has done and that is to toss out the window all that Judah has to offer them. They don't want it. They want to remake the ways of Judah into what they desire. The ways of Judah are not Jewish but of Israel. They have carried the torch from the ancients and are the bearers of the ancient path. The Almighty said He would make us one in HIS hand, not in our hands. Judah cannot do the uniting and neither can Ephraim. What both have forgotten about, as well, are the Gentiles or nations who have chosen to join with either group.

We are ONE people – ONE nation – Israel! We are not two nations with two separate Torah's. We are ONE nation under one Torah. Equal weights and measures my friends - Torah teaches us about this. Equal weights and measures are directed to proper business ethics but we can also apply this to how we relate to each other and how Judah and Ephraim relate to one another as well. If you believe in Messiah then we are all called to walk in the ways of Torah. The book of Deuteronomy relates Moses' last will and testament to the Children of Israel and it was not just for the Israel he led for forty years it was also meant for those who would come after who would become part of Israel because they were children of Abraham. Everyone who believes in Messiah and follows His Torah become part of Israel, whether native born or of the nations. We are ONE people – ONE nation. Our king is not a usurper as Adonijah was but our king is the Son of God who brings redemption to all mankind if they just reach out and take hold of Him.

### **1 John 3:13-16**

**13** Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. **14** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. **15** Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. **16** By this we know love, that He laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

Love is a requirement for Believers and I have seen people who claim to be Believers who do not love their brethren or they love with stipulations. If you love there cannot be any stipulations because if you place limitations on love then expect the same thing in return from the Almighty. I admit that I have loved my fellow Believers with limitations. When I am attacked by another Believer it makes me stop short and question what it was that I did that brought this on me. In return I place limitations on the love I extend and then I question why is it the Holy One of Israel is not opening the storehouse of heaven and pouring His blessings out upon me and mine.

**Malachi 3:7** From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' **8** Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. **9** You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. **10** Bring the **full** tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in

my house. And thereby put Me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

While this is a Scripture passage that many quote when trying to get people to give tithes and offerings, it means more than just that. It teaches us what the Almighty seeks from us and what we begrudgingly give Him, if we give anything. The same applies to our offering our love to others and to our Heavenly Father and His Son. Not only do we not obey Him in the giving of our tithes and offerings we do the same with our love. We ration it out, a little here and a little there if at all. Love is to be given to our brethren without conditions in the same way we are to give it to the Holy One. It has to be given without reservation. If we hold it back then do not expect the Holy One to pour out His love on you.

I am not talking about a mushy, gushy love. I am talking about a love like what the Messiah showed us when He walked the earth. He was tough when He had to be and He was gentle when the need arose. Too many look upon Yeshua as this *wet noodle* Messiah who let people walk all over Him. He only allowed that when it fit into the plan of His Father - even when they came to arrest Him in the garden of Gethsemane.

**Matthew 26:51** And behold, one of those who were with Yeshua stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. **52** Then Yeshua said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. **53** Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and He will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? **54** But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" **55** At that hour Yeshua said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture Me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. **56** But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

It was His time and He knew the plan of His Father and that it had to come to pass in order for redemption to be offered to those who would grab hold of it. My friends, I have spent much of the past year, and will do so for the near future, on the need for us to love one another without reservation and that Messiah and Torah go hand in hand. Messiah, with salvation, is given without conditions to anyone who asks for it. Yeshua will not push redemption on us. It is a gift freely given to anyone who is willing to repent and take Messiah's forgiveness upon them. Torah comes upon redemption as the way to show Messiah we love Him. The Torah is not just about commandments, statutes, ordinances, judgments, and precepts. It is about the love the Holy One of Israel has for us. Torah is His love letter to His people. It has been signed and sealed by the blood of Yeshua. I am one that is learning to give my love without reservation. It is not an easy thing to do but as I walk this path I can look to my Messiah who set the bar high for us. Love does not cancel out Torah, it brings Torah full circle, back to the beginning when the Almighty's love brought Him to create us.

***"What are you doing, dear?" asks the husband to his wife who has been sitting in front of a mirror for hours. "Oh," replies Bettie, "I'm trying a new 'miracle' cosmetic, guaranteed to make me look years younger. Tell me honey, honestly, how old do I look?" "Well," he replies, "Judging from your skin, I'd say 20...your hair, mmmm, about 18...and your***

**figure, twenty five." "Oh, you're so sweet!" "wait! I'm not done yet. I need to add them all up!"<sup>2</sup>**

May the Lord bless you and yours... *Mordecai Silver*

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<sup>2</sup> From *Torah with a Twist of Humor*